



Arnold Schwarzenegger,
Governor
Alex Reid, Commission Chair
Marie Moretti, Executive Director

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News from the "Team"

*From Adam Sutkus,
Citizen Corps Program Director*

September was a very busy month with the anniversary of 9/11, National Preparedness month, and the Hurricanes. October brings us the onset of fall and some key national conferences to report back to you on, as well as the all-important appropriations conclusion. In the spirit of keeping it brief this month, keep up the good work!

CERT Update

T4: CERT Program Manager's Academy:

The second *T4: CERT Program Manager's Academy* was presented in San Jose on September 22-23. This course sponsored by the California State CERT Work Group was very well received by all in attendance. We would like to thank everyone involved in making this course a success and for Santa Clara Sheriffs Office for hosting the course. Thanks to all of our T4 instructors for the wonderful work they are doing: Rick Paige, Barbara Cimino, Pamela Nishimoto, Tony Colletta, Bill McCloud, Brian Waterbury and Marsha Hovey.

This course aims to help CERT Program Managers to start, develop, enhance and expand CERT programs in their jurisdiction. Instruction focuses on program management; retention of trained members; CERT program budgeting; effective graduations; marketing CERT; instructor techniques; and, refresher training and exercises.

The next *T4: CERT Program Manager's Academy* course will be conducted in Fresno on October 27-28. If you are interested in attending this class please speak with your local Operational Area Representative. This course does not cover the basic CERT material as it is assumed that program manager

nominees have a high level of understanding of the subject matter.

The final date to register for this class is October 21, 2004. If you would like more information or have any questions please contact Jeffrey Deutschman at (916) 323-7646 or via email at jeff.deutschman@csc.ca.gov.

A Future *T4: CERT Program Manager's Academy* course will be conducted in Los Angeles on December 1-2.

Hurricane Deployments for Volunteers

At first causing some confusion, but ultimately being very useful--FEMA/DHS called upon the nation's volunteers who had signed up with the Citizen Corps effort to participate in critical recovery efforts. About 200 Californians answered FEMA's call to help in Florida, with about 100 actually leaving the state. Most are still there now--and with hurricane season not yet over, volunteers may yet be asked again to help.

California State Citizen Corps is participating in a "hotwash" on October 14th in Washington, D.C. with the Dept. of Homeland Security to refine the system of accessing these national volunteers as temporary workers for disasters. We will report the results in next month's newsletter.

Many thanks to state OES and the Operational Areas for their patience as this unexpected process unfolded; we will make it efficient and orderly for future emergency callouts.

HOPE Coalition: New CA Partner!

On September 29th, during National Preparedness Month, the state Citizen Corps Program signed a Memorandum of Understanding with HOPE Coalition of America. HOPE had just signed a national agreement with the Department of Homeland Security on Sept. 27th and California was their next stop. Los Angeles, through the leadership of Ellis

Stanley--Los Angeles Dept. of Emergency Management--had already signed an agreement with HOPE and used the event on the 29th to reaffirm their strong relationship.

HOPE Coalition America provides free, compassionate financial and economic counseling to individuals and small businesses adversely affected by natural disasters and national emergencies; recruits and trains volunteers from the private and public sector; and develops curriculum, resources, and networks with federal and local governments, businesses, community and faith based organizations.

Several L.A. City Council members, local businesses, and Senator Feinstein's office were represented at the event. California is honored with this partnership and looks forward to future joint projects.

9/11 Events Held

To honor the victims and commemorate the terrible events of 9/11, many activities were held around the state on the anniversary. State Citizen Corp participated in two excellent local workshops sponsored by Congressman Rohrabacher's office in Huntington Beach and Palos Verdes. Special thanks to Dr. Fadi Essmaeel, of the Congressman's staff for coordinating these events.

The national Citizens On Patrol conference was held in El Monte two weeks after 9/11 and focused on the events of that day to support the critical need for law enforcement volunteerism. Special thanks to Executive Director Art Femister for inviting state Citizen Corps to speak at the conference.

Website Revision/Communication **Re-Vamp**

With the CSC change, our website was completely re-done. With a healthy Mea Culpa, we know that our role of sharing Best Practices and other key documents through our

website and other delivery mechanisms has been delayed. We are now looking at our website, current communications techniques, and our partnership with DHS nationally to update outreach through our new CSC perspective. The CSC change gives us an opportunity to update the way we communicate. Along those lines, we need your input! We already are designing a "bulletin board" through our DHS/FEMA partners and their website (more soon), but we need to know what is good/what needs improvement/what "new" functions through our web or other communications mechanisms would allow your programs and the statewide effort for Citizen Corps to build and grow. Please send your input to Katrina.Rosseini@csc.ca.gov

Legislative Updates

SENATE PASSES INTELLIGENCE OVERHAUL BILL RETAINING FIRST RESPONDER FORMULA'S SMALL-STATE MINIMUM

On Wednesday, October 6, 2004, the Senate -- after adopting a variety of amendments -- passed S.2845 on a vote of 96 to 2. The bill would overhaul the nation's intelligence structure, creating a position of National Intelligence Director and is estimated to incorporate 39 of the 41 recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission.

The Senate bill, sponsored by Sen. Susan Collins (ME), includes a complicated restructuring of homeland security grant programs. The discretionary Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program would receive 25 percent of total homeland grants -- a portion roughly comparable to the FY2004 level but below the share in both the House and Senate FY2005 Homeland Security appropriations bills. For remaining funds, now funded as the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), the Senate bill would retain the 0.75 percent small- state minimum that has resulted in widely-publicized

funding discrepancies between low funding for larger states that have significant terrorism threat and risk issues, and large funding shares for small states that do not have comparable issues. The bill does add an alternative per capita population-based minimum calculation that would not focus solely on small states, but its operation would not likely alter the existing formula allocation structure significantly.

The Senate bill would require some amount, above the 0.75 percent per-state floor, be distributed to every state. Language would require funding be provided to every state that has a "substantial percentage" of its population living in metropolitan areas (which can house as few as 50,000 persons); an international border or coastline; or has at least one "key asset," which is not defined but could be a hospital, refinery, military base, state capitol building, etc.

In addition, while at first glance there is language of the Senate bill also appears to create a new "Large High-Threat States" fund to compensate states hurt by the formula's minimum, and provide for a pro rata reduction of funds to equalize funding somewhat. However, upon closer inspection, it appears that the operation of the fund would be unlikely to significantly increase funds to large states.

Last year, California received 20 percent of UASI funds and 8 percent of SHSGP money. A preliminary assessment indicates that this funding split - 20 percent for urban funds and 8 percent of the remainder - would likely persist under the formula provisions of S.2845.

CONFEREES AGREE ON HOMELAND SPENDING

On Thursday afternoon, October 7, 2004, a conference committee began to work out differences between House and Senate versions of the Homeland Security Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2005. The conference ran into challenges

regarding unrelated provisions, however, regarding drought aid and hurricane relief payments. Negotiations were put on hold Thursday evening, but not before conferees reached agreement on the bill's \$32 billion in major homeland security funding provisions. The conference was expected to resume on Friday, October 8.

The conferees reportedly agreed to spend \$5.1 billion for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), \$1.1 billion for research and development, and \$9.8 billion for customs and border protection. It includes \$4 billion for first responder programs, but as this Bulletin was being finalized, specific formula grant and high-threat urban grant funding amounts were unavailable. (Going into conference, both the House and Senate appropriations bills proposed increasing funds for urban area grants and reducing formula grants, a change that would likely raise California's share of homeland security spending. The Senate bill proposed \$1.55 billion for state grants, now distributed via a widely criticized Patriot Act formula that favors small states, and \$1.2 billion for urban area grants. The House bill included \$1.7 billion for state formula grants and \$1.1 billion for urban area grants. Last year, California received 8 percent of formula grants, but 20 percent of urban area grants.)

For Citizen Corps, the conferees will be considering a compromise between the \$20M passed by the House and \$30M passed by the Senate. By comparison, the 2004 national total for Citizen Corps was \$40M.

Citizen Corps Progress!!!

Citizen Corps Councils: 60
CERT Programs: 125
MRC: 23
VIPS (registered): 186
Neighborhood Watch
(registered): 1634
Fire Corps: TBD

NOTE TO GRANTEEES

Important Reminders for FY03 CERT Grant Recipients

- The end of the FY 03-04 CERT performance period is December 4, 2004.
- All FY03 CERT grant activities must be completed by December 4, 2004.
- All FY03 CERT grant funds must be expended by December 4, 2004.

Special Note: Requests for extensions for the 2003 CERT Grant will not be considered.

The CSC has waived the FY03 CERT Third Quarter progress report requirement, to be consistent with the reporting timelines for other homeland security grants in California. (The Third Quarter report was originally due October 15, 2004 for the performance period July 1 through September 30, 2004). The Fourth Quarter progress report for 2003 CERT will still be required. It will serve as your final grant report. The Fourth Quarter report should cover the performance period July 1 – December 4, 2004.

Citizens Corps Contact:

Main Number....
916.323.7646

citizencorps@csc.ca.gov

WEB address:

www.csc.ca.gov